

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /145 W

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R 140430 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1613

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8434

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: WEEKLY MR 3 SITREP 7-13 MAY 73

HEREWITH REPEAT OF AMCONSUL BIEN HOA MSG 0124 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 012 4

EO 11653: GD

TAGS: PINS MILI VC

SUBJ: WEEKY MR 3 SITREP - 7 MAY TO 13 MAY 73

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL DURING THE WEEK. THE VC/ NVA CONTINUED TO HARASS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN LONG KHANH AND SAIGON BY MINING THE ROAD BED. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 587 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE DURING THE WEEK. THREE RANGERS WERE KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED. MORALE AT TON LE CHAM WAS REPORTED HIGH DESPITE CONTINUED VC/ NVA SHELLING. SUPPLY EFFORTS BY AIR DROP INTO THE CAMP WERE EXCEPTIONALLY SUCCESSFUL WITH 100 PERCENT OF SUPPLIES REACHING THE RANGERS ON ONE DAY. THERE WERE 105 VC/ NVA INITIATED ACCIDENTS DURING THE PERIOD. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMUNIST CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS CLAIMED BY THE GVN FOR MR3 TO 3138 AS OF 0800 11 MAY 1973.

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2. THE ICCS CONTINUED TO BE PLAGUED BY FRICTION BETWEEN THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS (POLGARIANS), AND THE CANADIAN AND INDONESIANS TEAMS. ALTHOUGH THE CANADIANS CONTINUED TO DEMAND ICCS INVESTIGATIONS AND ACT INDEPENDENTLY TO OVERCOME POLGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM THERE WAS NO NOTICEABLE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GOAL OF AN EFFECTIVE ICCS IN THE SENSE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

3. APPROXIMATELY 650 ETHNIC VIETNAMESE LIVING IN CAMBODIAN HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. THEY CLAIM THE COMMUNISTS THREATENED TO KILL THEM THEM THUS FORCING THEIR MOVE. MORE REFUGEES ARE EXPECTED SOON. THE GVN SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE HAS ALREADY BEGUN RELIEF EFFORTS.

4. DURING THE WEEK, THE US ELEMENT OF THE FOUR PARTY CASUALTY RESOLUTION TEAM COMPLETED ITS FIRST TWO INVESTIGATIONS IN VIETNAM. AN UNIDENTIFIED PASSENGER, KILLED IN A DOWNED HELICOPTER IN LONG AN, WAS MATCHED UP WITH A MIA GI LAST SEEN HITCHING A COPTER RIDE TO SAIGON TO GO ON R&R. IN THE SECOND INVESTIGATION, AFTER TWO DAYS OF ON SITE SEARCHING, THE TEAM ABANDONED EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE BODY OF A SOLDIER WHO DIED WHEN A COPTER WAS SHOT DOWN IN 1968 IN CAN GIOUC, LONG AN. OFFICERS IN THE CASUALTY RESOLUTION GROUP EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF VIETNAMESE COOPERATION IN MR3. LIEUTENANT GENERAL MINH, MR3 COMMANDER, IS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM AND HAS GIVEN THE CASUALTY RESOLUTION EFFORTS HIS FULL SUPPORT.

5. THE FIRST VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MR3 ARE A SCHEDULED FOR 13 MAY IN TAY NINH. OTHER ELECTIONS WILL CONTINUE IN OTHER PROVINCES DURING THE REMAINDER OF MAY AND JUNE. REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES INDICATED THAT GVN MANIPULATION OF THE ELCTIONS HAD REACHED NEW HEIGHTS IN CERTAIN PROVINCES. A TRIUMPH FOR THE DEMOCRACY PARTY WAS ASSURED FOR NO OTHER EASON THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE CANDIDATES WERE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY.

6. AS THE WEEK ENDED, COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTION RESULTED IN ONE US DEATH AND YET ANOTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING A CLEARLY MARKED TPJMC HELICOPTER. WILLIAM C RASMUSSEN, A USAID CONTRACT EMPLOYEE VISITING BINH TUY PROVINCE, WAS KILLED WHEN A JEEP IN WHICH HE WAS RIDING HIT ALND MINE. TWO
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VIETNAMESE, INCLUDING THE MAJOR IN CHARGE OF BINH TUY' S PACIFICATION PROGRAM, DIED IN THE INCIDENT. TWO TPJMC HELICOPTERS RETURNING FROM A LIAISON FLIGHT TO LOC NINH TOOK AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE 7 KMS SOUTH OF AN LOC AT APPROXIMATELY 1430 11 MAY. ONE CHOPPER WAS HIT AND FORCED TO LAND TO INSPECT DAMAGES. THE OTHER LANDED NEARLY. THE DAMAGES WERE

REPAIRED AND THE HELICOPTERS CONTINUED TO BIEN HOA AIR BASE.
A HASTY DEPARTURE OF THE HELICOPTERS FROM BIEN HOA PREVENTED
AN IMMEDIATE ICCS INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER THE REGION V/ICCS
HAS RECEIVED A GVN COMPLAINT ON THE INCIDENT.
WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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